

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02072 241126Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 /024 W
-----036003 241736Z /41

R 241030Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 027

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 2072

DEPARTEMENT FOR AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, MR
SUBA: NOUAKCHOTT SUGAR REFINERY

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1907

1. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT BROACHED SUBJECT DIRECTLY WITH NEW GOVERNMENT, THIS SEEMS TO US TO BE OPPORTUNE TIME FOR LANG-PRITCHARD TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT ON LONG-STANDING SUGAR REFINERY ISSUE. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, NEW REGIME HAS TWICE CITED REFINERY AS ONE OF TWO PRIME EXAMPLES OF ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT (OTHER BEING NOUADHIBOU OIL REFINERY) WHICH PROMPTED THEM TO ASSUME POWER. CLEAR IMPLICATION IS THAT, FOR THE MOMENT, NEW REGIME BELIEVES DIDHONESTY OR GREEDY OFFICIALS IN OULD DADDAH REGIME WERE MAJOR FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PROJECT STALEMATE. THIS PERCEPTION, COMBINED WITH OBVIOUS POLITICAL BENEFITS THAT SW REGIME COULD REAP FROM PROGRESS IN ANY PREVIOUSLY STAGNANT SECTOR, MIGHT ENHANCE RECEPTIVITY OF GOVERNMENT TO RENEWED LANG-PRITCHARD NEGOTIATIONS. (FYI: WE UNDERSTAND LAND REPS OLIPHANT AND ADAMS WERE SCHEDULED ARRIVE NOUAKCHOTT 12 RULY , BUT CHANGED PLANS FOLLOWING GQP JULY COUP. END FYI)

2. OFFICIALS IN NEW REGIME AND FOREIGN TECHNICAL ADVISORS PRESENT HERE REPORTEDLY NOW CONSIDERING HOW TO SALVAGE WAR-
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RAVAGED ECONOMY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PART OF WORLD BANK'S RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR MAURITANIA CALLS FOR BOTH OIL AND SUGAR REFINERY PROJECTS TO BE SCRAPPEWRAS ECONOMICALLY UNSOUND.

3. ACTION RECOMMENDED: WE BELIEVE AF/W SHOULD SUGGEST TO LAND-PRITCHARD THAT, IF THEY BELIEVE REFINERY IS VIABLE PROJECT AND IF THEY WANT TO REMAIN INVILVED, NOW IS THE TIME TO TY

TO REACH AN ACCORD WITH GIRM. REFINERY IS ALREADY REFERRED
TO OPENLY AS THE AMERICAN WHITE ELEPHANT. ITS TOTAL ABANDON-
MENT AFTER THE EXPENDITURE OF MORE THAT \$30 MILLION WILL
CERTAINLY NOT SERVE TO ENHANCE OUR REPUTATION HERE. KRYZA

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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